

DATE: SEPTEMBER 01, 1985
SUBJECT: POLREP #1 - LOWELL ROAD ASBESTOS SITE CLEANUP
LOCATION: HUDSON, NEW HAMPSHIRE
POLLUTANT: ASBESTOS
OCCURRENCE DATE: UNKNOWN
ENVIRONMENTAL MEDIA AFFECTED: GROUND, FIRST BROOK
QUANTITY DISCHARGED: UNKNOWN
CATEGORY: ONSHORE/NONTRANSPORTATION
SOURCE: JOHNS-MANVILLE CORPORATION
REGION: I
OSC: USEPA, OIL & HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SPILL SECTION



SDMS DocID 271303

SITE BACKGROUND:

THE SUBJECT SITE IS LOCATED ON THE BANKS OF FIRST BROOK (A.K.A. HADLEY BROOK) ON THE WESTERLY SIDE OF LOWELL ROAD BETWEEN 13 LOWELL ROAD AND 11 LOWELL ROAD IN HUDSON, NEW HAMPSHIRE. ASBESTOS WASTES ARE EXPOSED ON THE FACE OF BOTH BANKS, WITH THE MOST SIGNIFICANT QUANTITY BEING LOCATED ON THE SOUTHERLY BANK. THE DEPOSIT IS COMPOSED OF PLATE WASTE, WHICH SUPPORTS THE TWO ADJACENT DRIVEWAYS, INTERMIXED WITH FRIABLE MATERIAL. LABORATORY ANALYSIS HAS CONFIRMED THE PRESENCE OF CHRYSOTILE ASBESTOS.

THE MATERIAL EXTENDS VERTICALLY FROM THE EDGE OF THE BROOK TO THE EDGE OF THE ADJACENT DRIVEWAY FOR 13 LOWELL ROAD FOR A TOTAL ESTIMATED HEIGHT OF 6 TO 8 FEET. Laterally, the southern face extends approximately 100 feet along the edge of the brook, starting at a point near the Lowell Road-First Brook box culvert and ending at a point downstream a few feet beyond the end of the 13 Lowell Road driveway. Conditions on the northerly bank mirror those found on the southerly side of the brook, although the overall height of the deposit and the degree of exposure are less severe. Seasonal water elevation in the brook ranges from less than one foot to over 4 feet in depth with water flow partially controlled by two upstream dams. It is visually apparent that the southerly bank has been repeatedly scoured by high water, leaving empty pockets between the stacked plate waste and significantly compromising the bank stability. Friable asbestos has in all likelihood washed downstream for many years.

THE OWNER/OCCUPANT OF 13 LOWELL ROAD STATES THAT ASBESTOS-LIKE MATERIAL IS VISIBLE THROUGH A HOLE IN THE BASEMENT WALL, SUGGESTING THAT THE DEPOSIT EXTENDS ACROSS THE ENTIRE LOT. THE OWNER/OCCUPANT FURTHER STATES THAT THE HOUSE WAS PURCHASED 35 YEARS AGO, AT WHICH TIME THE HOUSE WAS AN ESTIMATED 20 TO 25 YEARS IN AGE. THE BACKYARD OF THIS HOME IS SCATTERED WITH PLATE WASTE. THE OWNER'S INFORMATION AND VISUAL EVIDENCE STRONGLY SUGGESTS THAT ASBESTOS WASTES EXTEND ACROSS THE ENTIRE #13 LOT AND THAT THE HOUSE IS CONSTRUCTED ON TOP OF AND WITHIN THE WASTE MATERIAL.

THE ADJACENT PROPERTY, 11 LOWELL ROAD ON THE NORTHERLY SIDE OF THE BROOK, IS MORE DENSELY VEGETATED BY GRASS. NO PLATE WASTE WAS OBSERVED THROUGHOUT THE BACKYARD, ALTHOUGH AN OCCUPANT STATES THAT EXCAVATION RESULTS IN THE SURFACING OF BURIED PLATE WASTE. IT IS THEREFORE POSSIBLE THAT THE DEPOSIT ALSO EXTENDS ACROSS THIS PROPERTY AS WELL.

THE SURROUNDING NEIGHBORHOOD IS PRIMARILY RESIDENTIAL, IN THE LOW TO MIDDLE INCOME RANGE. SOME COMMERCIAL STRIP DEVELOPMENT EXISTS ON LOWELL ROAD SOUTH OF THE SITE. THIRTEEN LOWELL ROAD IS A SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCE CURRENTLY OCCUPIED BY AT LEAST THREE CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 12. ELEVEN LOWELL ROAD APPEARS TO BE A MULTI-FAMILY HOME.

ACTIONS:

AN ACTION MEMORANDUM WAS APPROVED ON 15 MAY 1985 AUTHORIZING THE FUNDING OF \$488,000.00 TO INITIATE AN IMMEDIATE REMOVAL ACTION. SITE CLEAN-UP AND REMOVAL ACTIVITIES ARE SCHEDULED TO BEGIN ON 9 SEPTEMBER 1985 WITH D. H. MATERIALS CO. AS THE CLEAN-UP CONTRACTOR. THE CLEAN-UP OPERATION IS EXPECTED TO TAKE 60 DAYS TO COMPLETE. THE RESIDENTS OF THE AFFECTED PROPERTIES WILL BE RELOCATED DURING THE CLEAN-UP OPERATIONS.

FUTURE PLANS:

THE USEPA WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR CLEAN-UP AND REMOVAL OPERATIONS TO ASSURE COMPLIANCE WITH EPA GUIDELINES.

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